

## Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare: 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Colleagues

These are the deadlines, information, and announcements for the week of 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

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### DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 \*TODAY\***

Review and Confirm window for Core Funding closes

**21<sup>st</sup> February 2025**

LINC+ CPD Programme for LINC Graduates closes @ 4pm

**28<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Deadline for Core Funding Income and Expenditure Template Year 2

**20<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Kerry CCC/ Dr. Mary O' Kane Webinar

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### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

#### Kerry CCC / Dr. Mary O' Kane ' Promoting Positive Behaviour' Webinar

Please note: this webinar is fully booked and a waiting list has been established. If you, or any of your staff who have booked in, cant now attend please let us know so that we can offer the place to someone else.



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#### Core Funding February Review and Confirm

The February Review and Confirm window has been open between

**1<sup>st</sup> February - 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Core Funding supports and training materials can be found under the [Help and Support](#) section of the Early Years Hive.



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## LINC+ CPD Programme for LINC Graduates



The LINC+ CPD Programme was created to enable graduates of the LINC

Programme to benefit from regular professional support and development, through additional training, networking, and development of communities of practice. This online programme is funded by DCEDIY.

Registration for the LINC+ CPD Programme **for LINC Graduates** is now open and will close on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025 at 4pm. To register please use the following link: [LINC Programme CPD](#)

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## Reporting Requirements for Core Funding Year 2



The deadline for submitting the completed Income and Expenditure for Year 2 is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

The CFCRRS portal is now open for submissions. Guidance is available on the [Early Years Hive](#) >‘Core Funding Reporting Requirement Year 2 (2023/2024)’. If you have any further queries or requests, please email [support@cfcrrs.ie](mailto:support@cfcrrs.ie).

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## New Garda Vetting Procedures



Tusla will now provide the Garda Vetting Application Service for Registered Providers of Early Years & School Age Childcare Services, Childminders, and those applying for registration.

Applications must be submitted via the new [Tusla Garda Vetting Portal](#). To support Registered Providers and Childminders Tusla has created a dedicated Garda Vetting section on their website, along with a Guidance Document, FAQ and a [pathway infographic](#). Additional information is available on the DCEDIY website here [Garda Vetting for the Early Learning and Care \(ELC\) and School Aged Childcare \(SAC\) sector](#)

Please note Tusla will not provide vetting for employees, volunteers, or cover personnel in childcare services. Vetting for these staff members must be obtained from [Early Childhood Ireland](#). Students on work placement must apply through their educational institution.

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## AIM Level 5 Equipment - Transfer of Ownership



The ‘Transfer of Ownership’ process for AIM Level 5 equipment will open this month on the Hive. The Transfer of Ownership of relevant AIM equipment, from Pobal and DCEDIY to the relevant party, occurs at the end of the child’s participation in the ECCE programme. The completion of this process will determine the destination and ownership of the AIM Level 5 equipment item. As per the AIM rules, section 7.20 “ELC services and parent(s)/guardian(s) must engage with Pobal in relation to the transfer of ownership of equipment (including returning signed transfer of ownership forms, as appropriate). Equipment provided under AIM Level 5 should not be removed from the pre-school until the transfer of ownership process is completed. Guides and training videos are available in the Help & Support section on the Early Years Hive.

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## Childminding Development Grant 2025

Norma Foley, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, recently announced the opening of the 2025 Childminding Development Grant.

The total budget of €500,000 reflects the high demand for the grant in previous years. It also reflects the Government’s commitment to support childminders to prepare for registration with Tusla.

The Childminding Development Grant of up to €1,000 is open to all childminders, including those who are planning to open a childminding business in 2025. The grant aims to support childminders to enhance quality and safety in their service through the purchase of toys, childcare equipment, safety equipment, equipment to support inclusion and STEAM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths), as well as IT equipment to assist childminders to engage with training and registration processes later in the year.

Applications for the Childminding Development Grant are made to Kerry County Childcare Committee. The grant application window is from 4th February 2025 to 4th April 2025.

For further information about the Childminding Development Grant or the National Action Plan for Childminding, visit [www.gov.ie/childminding](http://www.gov.ie/childminding) or contact Amy in Kerry County Childcare Committee [amy@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:amy@kerrycountychildcare.com) / 087 7885114

Kerry County Childcare are hosting an online drop in session on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 from 19.15pm - 20.15pm to answer questions relating to the grant.

To obtain the link for this event please contact [amy@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:amy@kerrycountychildcare.com)



**National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028**

An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Meathuairis, Langhárntreochra agus Oige  
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

**Childcare Committee**  
Cuide Cúram Leanaí Chiarraí

### Childminding Development Grant 2025

Have you any questions about the Childminding Development Grant?  
Would you like to know if you are eligible to apply?  
Need help with completing the application form?  
Have some queries about what you can purchase?

If the answer is 'YES' please join us at our  
**On Line, Drop In Question and Answer Session for Childminders**  
on Wednesday 19th February 2025 between 19.15 and 20.15.  
Drop in at any time to meet with Amy, our Childminding Development Officer who will answer all your queries.

To receive the link to this session please contact Amy on:  
087 7885114 / [amy@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:amy@kerrycountychildcare.com)

This Question and Answer Session is open to all existing and potential Childminders in Kerry

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## Kerry CCC Critical Incident Information Session

All Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School Age Childcare (SAC) services are required to have a service level Critical Incident Plan as part of your Safety Statement (outlined in the Tusla Quality and Regulatory Framework (QRF) and the National Quality Guidelines for School Age Childcare Services).

A guide has been developed from previous guidance on critical incidents planning, including the Critical Incident Plan Toolkit and the extensive work of the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), to support ELC and SAC services to think about and plan for critical incidents and to have practical supports in place should it be necessary to respond to a critical incident.

We will deliver a short briefing session to outline the requirements and to consider the guidance. This will take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm at the KCCC offices in Monavalley, Tralee.

If you would like to **attend, please email [info@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:info@kerrycountychildcare.com) with details of attendees no later than 20<sup>th</sup> February.** Please note places are limited so early booking is advised.

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## Kerry County Childcare Jobs Board



[Website Jobs Board](#) – Local Jobs Board for Kerry

If you would like to place an advert on our Jobs Board please email  
kathryn@kerrycountychildcare.com.

We invite you to visit our website [here](#) and like and follow our Facebook page [here](#) for lots of updates and relevant information.

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## Covid Case Advice

Please see below links to relevant information: [Preventing the spread of covid 19 in school or childcare - HSE & Pre\\_School\\_ManagementInfectiousDisease.pdf](#)

General Covid-19 queries: Contact HSE on 1800 700 700 between 8 am and 8 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am - 5 pm Saturday and Sunday / [HSE Covid-19](#)

**Kind Regards,**

**Kerry County Childcare Committee**